



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Kind Supports Immediate Marriage Penalty Tax Relief

Bill extends much needed relief for low and middle-income families

Washington, D.C. -U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (WI) made the following statement in support of the fiscally responsible Democratic Marriage Penalty Elimination Bill and in support of the final passage of the Marriage Penalty Relief Act (HR 4219):

"With rising costs for college tuition, health care, and other necessities, we need to act today to ensure that working families are not going to be faced with a marriage penalty tax in 2005," stated Kind. "Without action, tax relief from the marriage penalty would lapse next year as required under the 2003 tax cut package. While the majority of the 2003 tax proposal that passed the House was fiscally irresponsible and designed to benefit only the wealthiest of Americans, its provision providing couples complete relief from the marriage penalty in 2003 and 2004 had bipartisan agreement."

Kind has said that it is unfair to Americans today, and especially the next generation, to ignore record budget deficits facing the nation, estimated by the White House at over \$500 billion this year alone. As a member of the House Budget Committee, Kind supports a budget resolution that allows for extending marriage penalty tax relief while still reducing the deficit. This approach required tough choices, prioritization, and a bipartisan commitment to helping working families.

"With the House-Senate conference committee still negotiating the budget resolution for fiscal year 2005, I remain hopeful that we will be able to provide married couples continued tax relief today without raising the debt burden on our children's generation."

Kind voted for the fiscally responsible Democratic Marriage Penalty Elimination Bill, offered by Rep. Rangel (D-NY), that was fully paid with a roll back of the tax cuts for people with incomes of \$1 million or more.

"The substitute offered by Representative Rangel is a more responsible bill that will permanently repeal the marriage penalty tax for millions of Americans while not increasing the budget deficit. By providing a responsible offset to pay for this tax cut, we can benefit all married tax filers without burdening our children with added debt."

In addition, the Rangel substitute would have benefited 13 million more Americans by accounting for the Alternative Minimum Tax. The AMT will deny many married couples the tax relief intended under this bill because they fall under a complex set of AMT tax provisions.

"Extending relief from the marriage penalty now will help millions of working families that otherwise would face a tax increase in 2005," Kind said. "I believe we can and must provide this relief in a fiscally responsible manner that will not burden future generations of Americans. Our work is far from over in helping working families face the challenges of today's economy, and we must come together in a bipartisan manner to craft a fiscally responsible budget resolution."